

(No. 95.)



1862.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N No. 67.

LIGHTHOUSE RATES.

Presented by Mr. Dowling, and ordered by the House to be printed,
11 September, 1862.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Members of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT the Light-house Rate payable by every Sailing Vessel (not a Coaster), on entering inwards at the Customs in this Colony, is fixed by *The Marine Board Act* at Nine Pence per ton.

That the Light-house Rate payable by every Steamer and every Coasting Vessel, on entering inwards, is fixed by the same Act at Four Pence per ton.

That in Melbourne there is a charge under the head of Tonnage Dues of One Shilling per ton, payable only once in Six months; and in Sydney there are, as your Memorialists believe, no Light Dues or any Port charges whatever, except Pilotage.

That Sailing Vessels trading from Launceston to Melbourne or Sydney make, on an average, from ten to fourteen trips in the year; and the charge of Nine Pence per ton every time they enter inwards at the Customs, is a tax which presses heavily upon the Shipping employed in those trades.

That Vessels sailing from Launceston on the North-west Coast to Melbourne, or from Hobart Town to Sydney, rarely see any of the lights except those at the entrance to each Port, and are charged Nine Pence per ton; whilst Coasters, which have probably the advantage of the whole of the Light-houses on the Coast, pay only Four Pence per ton.

That your Memorialists are of opinion the principle of charging Sailing Vessels a higher rate for Light Dues than Steamers, is not founded either in justice or equity; the Steamers, from the greater facility for navigating them, being enabled to take advantage of the knowledge of their position afforded by the Light-houses which a Sailing Vessel in many cases cannot.

Your Memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray your Honorable House to amend the Schedule of Light-house Rates in *The Marine Board Act*, so as to charge all Vessels whether Sailing or Steamers, one uniform rate.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

John Fawns.
C. J. Weedon.
Du Croz & Co.
John Scott.
F. G. Spicer.
William K. O'Keeffe.
Will. Birch.
R. W. Butler.
William Cleveland.
J. Aikenhead.
Thomas Corbett.
M. Gaunt.

Richard Green.
Francis Evans.
William Johnstone.
Alfred Harrup.
J. F. Hobkirk.
Robert De Little.
John Atkinson.
Jno. Gleadow.
W. W. White.
C. J. Irvine.
Robert Cook.
A. J. Marriott.